(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) Yes, Sir. All the important cities of the North-Eastern States have already been provided with modern and reliable communication network.

Telephones by Telecom Companies

195. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of connections given by the different Telecom Companies under fixed lines WLL Mobile and Cellular Mobile during the last four years, including 2002-03 (up to 31.12.02) year-wise, circle-wise and company-wise;

(b) how many of these connections have been given in rural, semi-urban and urban areas; year-wise and company-wise;

(c) how much USO levy has been collected company-wise and year-wise; and

(d) how much of these funds, have been deployed to commission new connections in the areas eligible for such funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Postal/Telephone facility in tribal areas of A.P.

196. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that many villages in tribal areas of Andhra Pradesh do not have either post office or village telephone facility;

(b) if so, the details thereof, district-wise; and

(c) the steps Government have taken to provide postal and telephone facilities in such villages within a time frame?